

<p>Midcoast Community Council</p> <p><i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i></p> <p>PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038</p> <p>http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</p>	<p>Claire Toutant, Chair</p> <p>Gregg Dieguez, Vice Chair</p> <p>Michelle Weil, Treasurer</p> <p>Len Erickson, Secretary</p> <p>Dave Olson,</p> <p>Jill Grant</p> <p>Dan Haggerty</p>
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Approved Minutes for Meeting of January 26, 2022

Call to Order (7:04pm)

All Council Members present: Claire Toutant, Gregg Dieguez, Michelle Weil, Len Erickson, Dave Olson, Jill Grant, Dan Haggerty.

This meeting was conducted virtually in of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report (7:10)

Lena Silberman for Supervisor Horsley:

- Covid Update for San Mateo County
 - o Test kits available
 - o Infection rates remain high
 - o Vaccination Rate – 88% one dose, 80% two doses
- El Granada Blvd petition and meeting – response requested
 - o Follow up – Consider Hannah Ormshaw's email of Jan. 7 to the council and others as the county response.
- Mirada Bridge Coastal Trail - work plan on schedule for completion in 2022
- Multi-Modal Trail project out for bid
- SB9 – has different constraints on the coast

Carlisle - asked about PPE materials level left outside

- Lena: County took responsibility

Michelle – COVID data tabulation errors for Midcoast

Dan – noted trees down in medians. Asked about county action.

- Lena: No Update yet

Harvey Rarback for the City of Half Moon Bay:

- Noted recent court decisions have gone against the City of HMB
- District map established with five districts and rotating mayor
- City working with Libertad for a pilot program for mental health response to 911 calls. It will be funded for 7 months for the City

Sheena Sidhu for Resource Conservation District

- Gave a summary update on the Wildfire Listening Session held on Jan. 25.

2. Public Comment & Announcement

Carlisle Young – disappointed in county government mis-handling materials in the medical center

Krystlyn Giedt – conducted state of coast event. Thanked Claire for her excellent comments

Sabrina Brennan – asked local agencies to seek recovery of costs in lawsuits filed by HMB if ruling against the City holds

Dan – acknowledged recent nights with exceptionally clear visibility

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes for Regular Meeting, January 12, 2022:
Posted late, item moved to next regular meeting

4. Regular Agenda

a. Comment Letter On Connect the Coastside Final Plan (Olson, Erickson, Dieguez). ([Link](#))

Claire noted that the study session covered input. Dave posted the draft letter on Jan. 19. No comments that led to changes received. Len made motion to approve the letter, Gregg seconded.

Len presented the letter via Zoom and proposed a wording change that added wording to request the document be referred to as the Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan (CTMP) strengthened the document as living document. Len moved and Gregg seconded this amendment. (Approved 7-0)

Dan objected to the wording of minority support for considering an undercrossing in Moss Beach. Dan presented an amendment for a change. No second.

Dave noted the concern about absence of lot retirement.

Michelle made a motion for two changes in the fourth paragraph. One was wording and the other requested adding a phrase: “The community would like additional Safe Route to School projects around Farallone View and El Granada to be accelerated”.

- Moved – Michelle, 2nd Jill, Passed 5-2, No – Dan, Dave

Public Comment

JQ Oswein – questioned whether the community supports roundabouts.

Carlyle – noted that people support roundabouts over signals if a control is required. concern about evacuation route

Ann – expressed concerns about roundabouts citing recent experiences in the wine country.

Chris Johnson – noted the length of review and process, commends and supports the letter, expressed concerns about below/above grade crossings, expressed concerns about future sea level rise impacts.

Kimberly Williams asked about the long sentences in the opening paragraphs. Dave provided background comments.

Rob expressed concern about wording related to under crossings wants an expression of interest in this topic by the community.

Claire proposed the wording “some people in the community have expressed interested (Moved by Claire, 2nd Michelle, Approved 7-0)

Len highlighted the sentence “We look forward to working with County Agencies, CalTrans, and the Midcoast community, in advancing improvements to this traffic corridor and noted that Chanda Singh the senior transportation planner is supportive of working with the community to support progression of future projects.

- Question Called (Failed 3-4, No - Dave, Dan, Jill, Gregg)

Gregg highlighted concerns of sea level rise and wants to Highway 1 planning and the effect of roundabouts on the sewer system costs understood prior to proceeding with siting Highway 1.

Claire asked for final comments from council. No one spoke in response.

Dolores supported letter and would like further support for transportation.

Claire called the Question

Final Vote – Approved 7-0)

Break in meeting – 8:30pm to 8:35pm

b. Comment Letter on PLN2021-00333, Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program
([Link](#))

Background

Claire Toutant opened this item and reviewed the request for comment from the San Mateo Planning Department on a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for a “Off-Leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program”, a project that would involve a year trial of dogs off-leash in two county parks, Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluffs. The focus of the MCC comment was the CDP and associated Negative Declaration. MCC’s comments go to the SMC Planning Commission which reviews the project and makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Claire said there was considerable attention on this matter and that the MCC had received 193 emails, 100 against and 92 for the dog walking proposal. Claire made it clear that the focus of the letter is the CDP and not the bigger question of whether dogs should be off-leash in the parks.

A three person MCC committee (Olson, Toutant, Weil) drafted a letter which was posted on January 23. Another council member, Jill Grant, developed an extensive set of comments and brought them forward on the day of the MCC meeting, January 26. Jill was asked to bring her comments to the council. A draft letter was posted on the website shortly before the meeting started.

Presentation – ([Link](#))

Nicholas Calderon provided an overview of the Off-Leash Committee and the several year process which led to the project proposal to the Board of Supervisor and a discussion of the details of the project. This slide set is available on the MCC Website.

Council Discussion ([Link](#))

Public discussion began but was halted. Claire asked Dave to define the path forward. Dave Olson reviewed the two letters (original letter) and (second letter). Dave clarified that he personally did not want dogs on the bluff, but wants the letter to be based only on considerations of the CDP and NegDec

Dave defined a course forward which was followed:

- Motion made to adopt the original letter (Moved – Gregg, 2nd – Dave)
- Amendment proposed to have the second letter replace the original letter (Moved – Jill, 2nd Dan)

The council discussed the impact of the amendment.

Gregg spoke in favor of the original letter, recognizing the work done to date and that the proposal followed a clear path of review

Michelle spoke in favor of Jill’s letter, citing in particular her young daughter’s fear of dogs when encountered on public trails. She said that while she helped develop and had supported the original letter, she now favored the second letter.

Len noted that if the amendment passed it would eliminate further discussion of the original letter. Dave confirmed this point.

Len called the Question on the amendment. The Question, if passed would have led to an immediate vote on the amendment. The Question failed (3 – 4) For – Len, Gregg, Michelle -- Opposed – Dave, Dan, Jill, Claire)

Dave clarified that he was not supportive of dogs off-leash in Pillar Point bluff, but he did not want to base his response on this point, but on considerations of the CDP and Neg Dec.

- With the council deadlocked, Jill withdrew her amendment.

Public Comment ([Link](#))

24 speakers expressed diverse viewpoints and opinions with a variety of arguments. (Fran Pollard / Cid Young / Nicole Skerry / Neil Merrilees / Christina Diaz / Sabrina Brennan / Sue Holly / Amy / Christopher Tyler / Betsy Cavill / Tom Ciotti / Christina Corwin / Chris Johnson / Lennie Roberts / Catherine Carter / Kimberly Williams / Amy / Peter Griffith / David / Matthew Greenberg / Keith Mangold / Gwen Dossey / Amanda Loucks / Janet)

A rough estimate identified 20 speakers as Coast residents. (

No speaker took a negative position for conducting a pilot off-leash project in Quarry Park.

17 of 24 speakers expressed support for a pilot off-leash project in Pillar Point Bluffs.

Council Discussion

An amendment to have the second letter replace the original letter was re-introduced. (Moved – Jill, 2nd Dan). The council continued discussion. The council was divided opinion on whether dogs should be allowed off-leash on the bluff.

Claire asked for a straw poll on support for dogs off-leash on Pillar Point Bluff:

- ([For](#) - Gregg, Len, Claire; [Against](#) – Dan, Michelle, Jill; [Abstain](#) - Dave).

Dave re-stated his concern that Jill's letter did not adequately address commenting on the CDP and Neg Dec.

Michelle reviewed the two letters and proposed an approach to add relevant comments on the Neg Dec to address Dave's concerns. After further discussion of several wording options the council agreed that Michelle would draft an amendment to the second letter to address Dave's concern.

([Link – create an updated version.](#))

Michelle introduced her updated letter as an amendment to Jill's amendment proposed a letter to replace the original letter. Of particular note while there was overlap in addressing the Neg Dec and CDP, the two letters differed in their concluding paragraphs:

Concluding paragraph of Original Letter

Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource. Damage to it would be irreparable. We would prefer it to be limited to passive recreation. If dogs are to be allowed off-leash at all, we request that guidelines, signage and enforcement be upgraded.

Concluding paragraph of 2nd letter amended by Michelle (bolding included in letter)

We can all agree that Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource, one that should be shared with locals and visitors alike. Opening the area to off-leash dogs would force many people, including those who have been using these trails for years, to go somewhere safer. **Therefore, we strongly oppose an Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program at Pillar Point Bluff.**

Public Comment

The meeting was not re-opened for public discussion.

Council final votes:

Vote on approving the Amendment to replace the Original Letter with the 2nd Letter

Moved: Jill, 2nd: Dan - Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

Vote on approving Michelle's amended version of 2nd Letter

Moved: Michelle. 2nd: Dave. Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

Vote to approve the Letter

Moved: Jill, 2nd Dan, Approved (5-2 No: Gregg, Len)

5. Council Activity

Item skipped by consensus.

6. Future Agendas

Item skipped by consensus.

Adjournment (11:55pm)

Moved: Dan, 2nd: Michelle, Passed 7-0